A Message from Mayor David H. Roche

After many years as a public official here, it has always been my honor to serve you and do my part to make Richmond Heights the best City it can be. Now that I am your mayor, my administration and I are doing what it takes to maintain your property values, keep you safe, help you grow your businesses, and encourage camaraderie among us. From reading the summaries below, I think you will agree that your team of City officials is doing a superb job of achieving the best outcomes for Richmond Heights.

For example, I brought back Phil Seyboldt as our Building Commissioner. Phil is bringing back his proven vision for keeping Richmond Heights beautiful. Seyboldt inspects progress on new construction, home repairs, and arranges for the removal of blighted structures. After almost ten years, we are slated to demolish the Amoco Gas Station at the corner of Chardon and Richmond Road. With help from the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, the old gas station should be gone by summer and lush green space will take its place.

We are actively marketing our City to newcomers because our City is an ideal place to live and work. Through our expanded and updated web site, which will “go live” in the weeks to come, we are showcasing the fresh face of Richmond Heights by featuring more in-depth information from each of our city’s departments. We believe our new web site will draw interest from businesses and community members who may consider shopping, living, working and/or manufacturing in Richmond Heights.

We recently enhanced Police and Fire Departments with the acquisition of additional safety personnel and equipment. On Tuesday January 27, I gave the oath of office to Patrolman Donald Stocum; our first newly hired police officer since 2009. In November, 2014, the Division of Fire obtained a new Type I ambulance and a new “chase vehicle”. These two new vehicles are already on our streets ready when you need them.

We have also seen promising expansion of our local industries. In particular, we appreciate and support Merit Brass’ ongoing contribution to our community as demonstrated through the construction of its new 25,000 square foot warehouse. We plan to continue supporting our local industries while encouraging new industries to establish their businesses right here in Richmond Heights.

The task of uplifting Richmond Heights is one that I embrace. So I want to hear your thoughts and ideas as to what steps forward might work best. To get your perspective, we are increasing our community engagement with our ongoing “Community Conversations” series, and our upcoming E-Newsletters which are both explained in this issue of the City Edition. Similarly, we encourage you to register for Ready Notify—a County emergency notification system designed to provide City informational updates and guide and instruct you as to what to do in the event of a serious emergency.

As you will read, we are very busy here at City Hall because you deserve our very best and that’s what we strive to provide for you every day.
POLICE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY SEEKING VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY POLICE

The Richmond Heights Police Department has 14 auxiliary officers and is looking to expand the unit to ease the burden of our Police Department. Volunteer officers help to keep our community safe by providing services such as directing traffic, following an accident, and assisting other officers. Auxiliary officers do not carry firearms, are not expected to make arrests. However they do observe and report on safety issues.

Other than for emergencies, the scheduling is very flexible and can accommodate most lifestyles. These roles are non-dangerous and something that most citizens could perform. Previous related experience or exceptional physical strength are not necessary. Auxiliary officers come from all types of backgrounds, namely technology specialists, customer service representatives, and retirees.

Requirements for applicants include: at least 21 years old, a “clean” criminal background, volunteering a minimum of 12 hours per month, and a dedication to serving the community. Common sense is essential to being successful in this position. Our highest priority is that we keep you safe and out of harm’s way. Training for new applicants consists of a total of 24 hours which is spread out over six training sessions. All uniforms and equipment are provided to you from the department at no cost. If you are interested or have any further questions, you can stop by the Richmond Heights Police Department to pick up an application or leave a message for the Auxiliary Commander.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Recognition

Patrolman Joseph Arbogast received a “Top Cop” Award from Mother’s Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) for his enforcement efforts in removing impaired drivers from the streets of Richmond Heights. Ptl. Arbogast, his wife Carrie and Sgt. Denise DeBiase attended this event as Joe was presented with the award and the Richmond Heights Police Department was recognized for its commitment and service to MADD.

CITY HIRES AN ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICER

On January 27, Mayor Roche gave the oath of office to Patrolman Donald Stocum. The Police Officer is the first of two officers that will be added to the full time staffing of the department since the passage of the income tax levy. Five officers were laid-off in 2009 due to the recession and the State’s cuts in local government funds to municipalities.

PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

The Police Department will bring the D.A.R.E. Program back to the elementary school in the spring of 2015. The program has not been offered since 2008 due to staffing and budgetary restrictions. The addition of two officers by spring and the awarding of a grant from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office will make this comeback possible.

The Police Department provided the Richmond Heights City School System with 380 Child ID Kits in conjunction with the National Child Identification Program. Each kit contains an inkless fingerprint kit, a DNA Collection Swab and a wallet ID card. This is great information to retain for the safety of our children.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY?

The following Commissions currently have opportunities. Should you have a desire to serve your community, as well as knowledge and experience in any of the following areas, please email the Richmond Heights Search Committee at search.comm@richmondheightsohio.org

- Board of Ethics (three year term)
- Community Emergency Response Team
- Cultural Commission
- Records Commission
- Recreation Board (two year term)
- Senior Commission on Aging (two year term)
NEW EMS CHASE VEHICLE IN SERVICE

Our new EMS Chase Vehicle is in full service and is responding to emergency calls in Richmond Heights. The 2015 GMC Sierra pick-up truck (771) replaced an older SUV which had served the community for over thirteen years. The EMS Chase Vehicle is used to supplement staffing during medical calls while at the same time providing available personnel in the event of an overlapping call. Firefighters respond to overlapping calls 16% of the time. The new EMS Chase Vehicle will facilitate the safe, effective response of our firefighter paramedics to the scenes of emergency medical and public safety incidents for many years to come.

SIGN-UP FOR READY NOTIFY

ReadyNotify is a mass notification system used to notify citizens, residents, and businesses of emergency situations, non-emergency events, and to provide information about necessary actions. When you sign-up in the system, you will receive emails as well as have the opportunity to choose how you want to receive additional messages. Additional messages can be delivered in the following ways: * Cell Phone * Home Phone * Work Phone * SMS/Text Messaging * Fax

Participation in the ReadyNotify Program is voluntary. A valid email and phone number will be needed to sign-up. During the registration process you will be asked to provide information about yourself such as your address, your primary language, and if you require any special assistance during an emergency event. To register please go to the link: www.ReadyNotify.CuyahogaCounty.us

DIVISION OF FIRE TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW AMBULANCE

On Monday, November 10 the Division of Fire took delivery of a new Type I ambulance. The new ambulance (Squad 741) replaced an older unit which had served the community for over thirteen years. New Squad 741 will facilitate the safe, effective response of our firefighter paramedics to the scenes of emergency medical and public safety incidents for many years to come. A significant amount of the unit’s design was specified and customized by the city’s own firefighter paramedics. Acquisition of the new ambulance for our community was made possible because of the support and guidance of Mayor and Council.

CITIZEN CPR CLASS OFFERED BY RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT ON MONDAY APRIL 13

Richmond Heights Division of Fire in partnership with UH Richmond Medical Center offers bi-monthly CPR courses to residents of Richmond Heights. The Heartsaver® CPR AED Course is a classroom, video-based, instructor-led course that teaches adult CPR and AED use, as well as how to relieve choking on an adult. The course will be held at the Richmond Heights fire station on April 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Contact the Division of Fire at (216) 383-6304, if interested. You can also e-mail your request to marc.neumann@richmondheightsohio.org. Class size is limited to 12 students per class. These classes are FREE to residents of Richmond Heights. This course is for the general public; it is not the Healthcare Provider Course. Participants must be at least 16 years old to attend.

FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM

Individuals and businesses can contribute to Richmond Heights’ beautification through the support of the Flower Basket Program. This summer, the City plans to purchase and install 24 flower baskets at the main intersections in Richmond Heights, and at City buildings and park locations. The Service Department will maintain the flower baskets through the summer months.

Suggested minimum support is $100 for a business and $50 for individuals. Baskets can be purchased “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone special. Please make checks payable to “City of Richmond Heights Flower Basket Program”. Please mail to: Finance Director, City of Richmond Heights; 26789 Highland Road; Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. Donations will be accepted throughout the year. Recognition of your donation will be publicized in the “City Edition” and by calendar year on the City website.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO 2014 BEAUTIFICATION SPONSORS

Robert Dresser & Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club
Since closing in 2006, the Amoco Gas Station located at 26102 Chardon Road has remained dormant. According to an Ohio Environmental Agency site assessment, the level of chemical contamination in the soil at the station is sufficiently high that the land has been identified as a “Brownfield”. To correct this Brownfield condition, the City of Richmond Heights, in collaboration with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development and the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, is in the final planning stages of restoring the site to a useful green space. Through a generous $200,000 Brownfield grant that the County Department of Development recently awarded Richmond Heights, the City has engaged the County Land Bank to facilitate the remediation of the site. Remediation will include removing any remaining underground storage tanks and materials and eliminating soil contamination. In addition, the Land Bank will demolish the structure on the site.

The City/County collaboration on this project highlights how much can be accomplished when local and regional governments work resourcefully together.

"After all these years, we are happy to have a plan forward for that corner thanks in large part to help from the Land Bank and the County Department of Development." says Mayor David Roche.

NEW EMPLOYEES HIRED

KIM ADAMS
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR
The City of Richmond Heights is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Kim L. Adams as the new Special Assistant to the Mayor. In addition to providing administrative support to the mayor, she is the first point of contact for the Mayor’s office. Her duties also include managing the day-to-day operations of the Mayor’s office. Ms. Adams brings 20 years of administrative assistant experience to this position. Her most recent experience was with the Shaker Heights City School District where she was the Administrative Assistant for Woodbury Elementary School and the Personnel Specialist for the district. We are pleased to have Ms. Adams as part of the team.

STEPHANIE BARRY
PART-TIME SPECIAL PROJECTS/SECRETARY
Stephanie Barry was hired as the part-time Special Projects/Secretary in December 2014. Prior to joining the team, Ms. Barry worked for the City of Cleveland Heights as an Administrative Assistant/ Legal Secretary. She has more than 3 years of project experience along with extensive computer experience. Her primary responsibilities include; assisting with updating the City of Richmond Heights Website, contact management-software, provide support to the Clerk of Council when needed, assist with recreation programs, and the development of flyers for various events/programs.

BLIGHTED AMOCO GAS STATION
TO BE DEMOLISHED THIS YEAR

(Left to Right) Police Chief Gene Rowe, Sergeant Deniese DeBiase, Teen Citizen of the Year Runner-up Patricia Molina, Teen Citizen of the Year James Leonza, Mayor David Roche and Council President Eloise Henry. Teen Citizen of the Year Nominees: (Not pictured) Sabrina Armond, Brianna Ash, Nichelle Blake, Liaura Camp, Dora Firona and JaShawn Molton.

TEEN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR CEREMONY
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!!
INFORMATION FROM YOUR SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Snow Season… The following information will help us get through this winter…
a. Please be prepared for poor weather conditions at all times, if there are poor road conditions forecast make arrangements to leave earlier
b. If we encounter continuous heavy snowfall, resident should not have “unrealistic expectations” of the Service Department
c. The City is NOT responsible for removal of snow thrown into any driveway by City snow plows
d. Residents or snowplowing contractors should avoid plowing, shoveling, or blowing any snow onto the road surface. Piles of snow in the road can create dangerous obstacles for motorists and the City snowplowing equipment. If a person is reported leaving snow in the roadway, he/she could be subject to a possible citation
e. Residents should also stress to their children to stay out of the path of snow being thrown off the plows; there could be rocks or ice that could injure a child in its path. Also, children should not dig tunnels in the snow or build igloos near the roadway or roadside ditches.

Rural Mailboxes… Mailboxes should be kept in good condition so they can withstand being hit by the force of the snow being thrown off the plow trucks. If a mailbox is damaged or the post broken because of thrown snow, the City will not repair or replace it. The City will only repair or replace a mailbox that has been hit directly by the snowplow equipment. If the City does have to replace a mailbox post it will be done with a post that is no larger than a 4”x4”. All mailboxes & posts that have to be replaced because of a direct hit from a City plow will be replaced with a conventional box & wood post only.

SAVE ON COST OF NATURAL GAS

Last November, voters approved a natural gas aggregation program offered by the non-profit agency “Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council” (NOPEC). Therefore, you are already in the program unless you opt out. Through NOPEC’s bulk purchasing power, greater savings on natural gas will be passed on to our residents and businesses.

You should have received a letter from NOPEC explaining the details. If you did not get the letter, or you have misplaced it, please see our web site for more details.

GET FREE TREES

The Euclid Creek Streamside Tree and Shrub Planting Program is here, so sign up for your trees and shrubs by February 20!

If you live or own property on the Euclid Creek or one of its tributaries, we want to give you tree and shrub seedlings to plant in the riparian buffer. Seedlings will be distributed to program participants in April of 2015.

If you have questions or wish to enroll in the program, please contact Claire Posius at 216-524-6580x16 or cposius@cuyahogaswcd.org.

DON KERNISKEY NAMED NEW SERVICE DIRECTOR

Donald Kerniskey was appointed as the Director of Service and Properties in January 2015. Mr. Kerniskey is replacing Don Lazar, who retired in June, 2014. Prior to being hired, Mr. Kerniskey worked for the City of Wickliffe’s Service Department for more than 24 years. He has extensive management experience while serving as the Director of the Service Department for the past 6 years. We are pleased to have Mr. Kerniskey as part of the Leadership team.

2015 RECYCLING EVENTS

AT THE SERVICE GARAGE 26260 CHARDONVIEW ROAD

Recycle Your Computer Dates

Months of April and August, every Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monitors, keyboards, CPU’s, laptops, software, & cell phones are accepted.

Scrap Tire Round-Up

Every Saturday in the month of August 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Tires must be removed from rims.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Every Saturday in the months of January, April, July & October 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Accepted Items: Oil or solvent based paint, sealers, primers, or coatings (aerosols or liquid); varnishes, polyurethanes, shellacs; paint thinner, mineral spirits, turpentine; pesticides, herbicides, fungicides; caustic household cleaners; pool chemicals; automotive fluids, motor oil, car batteries; adhesives, roof tar, driveway sealer; kerosene, gasoline, lighter fluid; fluorescent bulbs (6 foot max).

Materials Not Accepted: Latex paint; explosives, gun powder, ammunition flares; medical waste, medicine, sharps; smoke detectors; Tires; Electronics, appliances, business or commercial waste.
GREENWOOD FARM UPDATES AND INFORMATION

In November, 2014, the Greenwood Farm Board of Directors entered into an agreement with Historical Consultant Carol Poh to prepare a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Greenwood Farm.

It takes about one year for a structure to be approved as a historical place on the National Register. Ms. Poh's work will include all required documentation, a literature search, field inspection, photography, consultations with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO).

Over a long career in historic preservation, Ms. Poh has evaluated and prepared successful National Register nominations for dozens of individual properties and historic districts. Recent nominations have included: the Albert W. Henn Mansion and Shore High School in Euclid; the Hall Park Allotment Historic District in Akron; and the Claud Foster House in Willowick.

More activities at the Farm — The Board of Directors has formulated a variety of exciting programs that will be of interest to all in the community and beyond. Watch for details of the 2015 schedule on the website at www.greenwoodfarmassn.org, on Facebook, and in upcoming City Editions.

NEW BUSINESS OPENS

People's Dollar Plus, located at 215 Richmond Road on the City's North side, opened its doors on July 16, 2014. Owner and Operator, Dave Ali a 40 year resident of Richmond Heights, is hopeful that People's Dollar is just one new businesses that will occupy the City's North end (an area targeted for revitalization by City of Richmond Heights' Economic Development Team). As an independent, People's Dollar Plus has a unique and eclectic product mix that separates it from other stores in the area. In the store you will find clothing, jewelry and pet supplies among the typical dollar store items. With the addition of fresh food items such as milk, eggs and bread, along with the many dry grocery items, Mr. Ali strives to make People's Dollar more than just a place to get a few needed items; he is eager to make it a place where customers can stop by, get great deals, a friendly smile and the kind of community-friendly customer service that harkens back to the days of General Stores and Five and Dimes. Please stop by, say, “Hi.” to Mr. Ali and check out the store’s great deals and quality products.

FITNESS WITH CINDY

MONDAY AND FRIDAY
Weights & Chair Exercises

WEDNESDAY
Zumba Gold with Zumba Gold Toning (dancing to Latin music with lower impact fitness moves using one-pound toning sticks. The benefits will be building, sculpting and firming muscles, increasing endurance and helping with balance)

SATURDAY
ZUMBA, ZUMBA WITH TONING & introducing R.I.P.P.E.D.

KIWANIS LODGE
27285 HIGHLAND ROAD
CALL CINDY (216) 346-8909

A special thank you to the Richmond Heights Garden Club “Trim-A-Tree” Committee for decorating the holiday tree at City Hall. (L. to R) Dorothy Smrtnik (kneeling) Committee Head Dolores Sciaslino and Susan Myers.
GET INVOLVED WITH RICHMOND HEIGHTS AMATEUR SPORTS

Richmond Heights Amateur Sports (R.H.A.S.) is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to providing the youth of Richmond Heights and surrounding communities the opportunity to learn and play recreational, competitive, and organized baseball from May to July. Boys and girls from ages 5 through 18 are encouraged to participate regardless of skill level.

All community members and parents are welcomed to volunteer as coaches, board members, and fundraisers. All community businesses are also encouraged to participate as team sponsors and advertisers. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, call Bill Delsanter at (216) 544-3288 or visit the R.H.A.S. website at www.leaguelineup.com.

In person registration will be held on Saturday, February 28 at the Richmond Heights Middle School Gym from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

KIWANIS CLUB OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

It has been said that “Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.” This is the mission and goal of our local Kiwanis Club. We need you to help us advance our mission. The Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club is actively looking to add new members interested in becoming involved in the community. Contact David H. Roche, President, at (216) 291-2207 or davidroche@roadrunner.com

If you’re a resident, 50 years of age or older, consider joining the Senior Citizens Club. Together we enjoy bowling, golf, cards, trips, and other entertainment; all in a friendly atmosphere with friends, neighbors and refreshments!

Presently, bowling takes place in Wickliffe every Monday morning from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. After bowling, the group has the highlight of the day: a great lunch at a local restaurant. A card party is held at City Hall on Tuesday afternoons starting at 12:00 p.m. Special event dinner parties are held during the year. Presently, membership is in excess of 40 individuals.

The officers for 2015 are: Mitzi Binder, President; June Endres, Vice President/Secretary; Aire Roche, Treasurer.

Come join in on the fun. The dues are only $10 per year. General meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Kiwanis Lodge. Please come and give the group a try. For a schedule of the meetings or more information, please contact June Endres at (216) 486-4552.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

There are interesting garden related programs planned for March through June 2015 including our “Annual Spring Luncheon” in April and a field trip in May.

The Garden Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month from September thru June at the Kiwanis Lodge, 27285 Highland Road located at the rear of the Richmond Heights Community Park. Yearly membership dues are $10.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or for more information, please contact Dolores Sciaulino at (216) 382-7866.
Anthony Gimellia, Editor  
26789 Highland Road  
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143-1493

David H. Roche, Mayor/Safety Director (216) 291-2207  
Eloise Henry, President of Council (440) 465-3310  
Marcia Starkey Morgan, Council-Ward 1 (216) 732-9514  
Frank Lentine, Council-Ward 2 (440) 461-7991  
Jeremy Kumin, Council-Ward 3 (440) 520-4138  
Mark Alexander, Council-Ward 4 (216) 481-9015  
Donald O’Toole, Council at Large (216) 533-9697  
Juanita Lewis, Council at Large (216) 289-1003  
Emergency 9-1-1  
Richmond Heights City Hall (216) 486-2474  
Richmond Heights Information Number (216) 383-6300

The City with the Forward Look!

Editor’s note: I would like to thank Kim Adams, Stephanie Barry, Christel Best and Kathy Gamber for their assistance during the production of this City Edition. I also want to thank everyone who submitted an article or took photographs for their contribution.

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On December 6 Santa made a visit to the Kiwanis Lodge to meet and greet the children who attended the annual Breakfast with Santa event. The well-attended event was entertaining to all participants.

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SET CLOCKS AHEAD  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS  
Don’t forget it’s time to “SPRING AHEAD”.  
Set your clocks ahead one (1) hour on Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 a.m. This is also the time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

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RICHMOND HEIGHTS YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAM SPONSORS  
THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING A TEAM!  
Charter One Bank * Destiny Transportation * MACE  
Done Right Automotive * Grande Pointe Healthcare  
Hillcrest Sunoco * La Taqueria * Richmond Heights Kiwanis  
McDonald’s Restaurant * Misch Photography * Pizza Hut

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E-Newsletters  
are coming to the  
City of Richmond Heights!  
Watch for sign-up details on the new website to be launched soon.  
www.richmondheightsohio.org

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SENIOR TRANSPORTATION CONNECTION CELEBRATES  
A DECADE OF QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE  
TRANSPORTATION FOR CUYAHOGA COUNTY SENIORS  
CALL FOR A RIDE 1 (800) 983-4782

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HAVE YOUR PRIVATE FUNCTIONS AT THE PARK!  
The Park Pavilion at the Richmond Heights Community Park is available for various functions and for groups of 75 people or less. The pavilion can be reserved by any Richmond Heights resident for $50.  

The Kiwanis Lodge in the back of the Richmond Heights Community Park is available for various functions and for groups of 250 people or less. The Lodge can be reserved by any Richmond Heights resident for as low as $200. All reservations are made at City Hall in the Recreation Department. For more information, please call (216) 383-6313.